Banning import of pollutant material

†1252. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that highly pollutant useless material is still being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the cost of this material being imported annually on an average;

(d) whether Government are considering to take effective steps to ban the import of such material; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Import of highly pollutant useless material is not permitted as per the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) and (e) The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under rules 11 to 14 of the said rules. According to these rules, any import of hazardous waste into India for dumping and disposal is prohibited. Any hazardous waste containing or contaminated with the hazardous waste categories listed in Schedule 8 of these rule is also prohibited for imports.

However, imports of such wastes other than those listed Schedule 8 of these rules, is permitted into the country for recycling by the registered recyclers, registered with the Central Pollution Control Board and having environmentally sound management facilities for reprocessing such wastes. The import of hazardous waste is also regulated under the Export Import Policy of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Development of infrastructure in forest areas

1253. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to ensure that tourists should be able to visit reserved forest areas and the guide should ensure that the wildlife could be seen like in many African and other countries;

(b) whether Government plan to develop better infrastructure including roads and accomodation in forest areas for increasing the number of visitors and making maintenance of forests more self-sufficient; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Viewing of wildlife as well as other related, infrastructure for facilitating tourists visiting Tiger Reserves are fostered, under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger through funding support to States. Action has been taken for evolving ecotourism guidelines so that benefits of tourism can be shared with local people.

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

1254. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to overhaul the 'Wildlife Protection Act, 1972';

(b) if so, whether it would ensure that adequate funds are allocated for relocating the villagers, their cattle-stock and earmarking land for agricultural operations while sanctioning opening of new wildlife parks or tiger reserves;

(c) whether such relocation work has been completed in the existing National wild-life parks and tiger reserves; and

(d) if not, the time frame when this would be completed?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Wildlife (Protection) Act enacted in the year 1972 has been amended from time to time, the latest being in the year 2006. The amendments in the Act are resorted to as per the exigency, and requirements of the matter. There is no plan to overhaul the "Wildlife protection Act, 1972."

(b) Under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, there is no earmarking of funds for relocation of the villagers. However, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.*, 'Assistance to Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for relocation of villagers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The process of completion of relocation work is carried out only after due consent of the people, which is a long drawn process. Therefore, no specific time frame can be assigned for its completion.

Climatic changes in South Asia

†1255. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has apprised in its recent report that there is a possibility of economic upheaval, increase in social and environmental

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.